

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /031 W

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P R 161900Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1368

USIA/VOA MIAMI

USCINCSO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 0374

USIAC

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

ATTN: IOP/R, IPS, IBS, RIM, ILA, IOP/C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, ENRG, SPOP, BR, XF, IMF, G-20

SUBJECT: DAILY MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. HEAVY, EXTENSIVE MEDIA PLAY GIVEN BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CONFIRMING GENERAL ERNESTO GEISEL AS NEXT PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. MOST COMMENTARIES ON ELECTION PRAISED INDIRECT VOTING SYSTEM?, BY ELECTORAL COLLEGE, AS DESIRABLY "TRANQUIL"; SOME CALLED INCLUSION OF STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS IN ELECTORAL COLLEGE A STEP IN "DEMOCRATIZING" THE INDIRECT SYSTEM. A FEW COMMENTARIES AND REPORTS VENTURED TO NOTE THE WEAKNESS OF THE GOB-APPROVED OPPOSITION PARTY AND THE DULL PREDICTABILITY OF THIS KIND OF ELECTION. LIBERAL JORNAL DE BRASILIA EDITORIAL CARTOON IRONICALLY SHOWS A NERVOUS TV VIEWER WATCHING THE EVENING NEWS SHOW WHOSE ANNOUNCER SAYS, IN A DRAWN-OUT WAY, "THE WINNER OF THE ELECTION AND THE MAN WHO WAS DECLARED THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WAS HIS EXCELLENT, MISTER...".

THE VIEWER IS CHEWING HIS FINGERNAILS, ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE WINNER'S NAME AND SAYS, "MY GOD, WHO IS IT? THIS ANNOUNCER

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IS JUST KEEPING ME IN SUSPENSE..."(JANUARY 16.)

1. GROUP OF TWENTY MEETING: RECEIVES MODERATE PRESS COVERAGE. SAMPLE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES: PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO: "IMF MEETS IN CLIMATE OF UNCERTAINTY"; PAPER'S INSIDE REPORT SAYS THAT"...BESIDES THE ANXIETY ARISING OUT OF THE UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE PETROLEUM CRISIS AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, ANOTHER FACTOR IS PREOCCUPYING THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF TWENTY: THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW POSTPONEMENT IN THE DECISION TO SPEED UP RADICAL AND TOTAL REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM...AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE ROME MEETING WILL BE DOMINATED BY A CLIMATE OF ALMOST ABSOLUTE PESSIMISM, CREATED BY THE MONETARY INSTABILITY WHICH COULD DEVELOP IN SUCH A SERIOUS WAY AS TO LEAD TO FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHAOS..."(JANUARY 16). INDEPENDENT JORNAL DO BRASIL CORRESPONDENT IN ROME, ARAUJO NETO, REPORTS THAT UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN ROME THE GOB FINANCE MINISTER SEEMED TO BE PESSIMISTIC AND SHOWED LITTLE HOPES FOR SUCCESS AT THE G-20 MEETING. (JANUARY 16).

3. VICE-PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT IN LONDON RE U.S. AND PETROLEUM EMBARGO: JORNAL DO BRASIL EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON FORD STATEMENT CALLING "ABSURD" THE SPECULATIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. RETALIATION AGAINST THE ARAB NATIONS BECAUSE OF THE EMBARGO:"...UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WORLD'S BALANCE OF PEACE DEPENDS GREATLY ON STABILITY IN PERSIAN GULF AREA. THEREFORE, THE PLAN MENTIONED BY SECREATRY SCHLESINGER...IS AN ABSURDITY, AS CORRECTLY STATED BY GERALD FORD...PERSUASIVE MEANS (OF PRESSURING THE ARABS), THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO BE TRIED IN THE EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH NORMALITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM MARKET." (JANAURY 16).

4. NEWSWEEKLY MAGAZINE VEJA DATED JANUARY 16 CARRIES 6-PAGE COVER-STORY HEADLINED "THE DEMOGRAPHIC EXPLOSION--AND THE LACK OF A POLICY TO CONTROL IT", WHICH CRITICIZES THE GOB FAMILY PLANNING POLICY. ARTICLE SAYS:"...BIRTH CONTROL AND FAMILY PLANNING HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING MORE THAN RARE AND DUBIOUS REFERENCES FROM OUR AUTHORITIES...THE FACT IS THAT TODAY, FOR SPECIFIC REASONS, MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROLLING THEIR POPULATION...IT EVIDENTLY WOULD BE NONSENSE TO THINK THAT FAMILY PLANNING WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF MISERY IN BRAZIL OR IN THE WORLD. BUT...TO INTENSIVELY PUBLICIZE THE NECESSITY OF FAMILY PLANNING TO THE POOR PEOPLE WOULD NOT ONLY BE A WAY TO MAINTAIN THE (FUTURE)BRAZILIAN POPULATION CLOSER TO THE (IDEAL OF)300 MILLION, BUT IT ALSO WOULD BE A TRUE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THE SIZE OF FAMILY THEY WANT. HOWEVER,

ANY STEP TAKEN IN BRAZIL IN THIS DIRECTION, TIMID AS IT CAN
BE, ALWAYS HAS FACED AN INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER OF SUSPICIONS
WHICH BORDERS ON THE HYSTERIC..."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FAMILY PLANNING, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POPULATION GROWTH RATE, MONETARY REFORM, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL00374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaabkii.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAILY MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, ENRG, SPOP, BR, XF, IMF
To: USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005